in the night, they needed oil; and each planted a tree from which to obtain it As the plants began to grow, one of the hermits would incessantly turn to God and say, <(Grant light unto my plant, lest it should be colourless and sapless, and next, send down ample showers, for without them it will droop ; and then mix up the various manures in due proportions, that it be fed alright; and again vouchsafe that, season after season, the right measure of shelter and protection be extended to it, lest it should perish for want of requisite care and attention ! " The other hermit planted his sapling and said, " Lord, that I might have a gleam of light in my cell, even as a token of Thy glory, I have planted this: Oh, let it grow under Thy care. I shall not presume to prescribe for its up-bringing, by naming its needs to Thee; I shall humbly render unto it such little services of care as Thou promptest, and trust to Thee for its growth and the fulfilment of its object/' The story goes on that the plant of the hermit who, day and night, dunned for specific gifts of God and besought the many acts of providential protection, refused to grow and soon perished; while its neighbour flourished and realised the object of its existence.

Thus it is our's
to plant and God's to grow, our's to till and
God's to harvest,
our's to serve and God's to bless.

The grace of God is ever nigh to all who
feel their weakness
and their need. God is full of compassion
and mercy, and
will not bear the bruised reed or quench
the smoking flax;
but gently lifts up those that are cast down
and fans into
a flame the smouldering embers of holy
resolve. He bids us
do our best that we may strengthen within
us those faculties
for goodness which are already there: but
He bids us also
seek His grace and the sweet influence of
His Spirit, that in
waiting upon the Lord " we may renew our
strength and
run/ and not be weary, may walk and not
faint." Yet, in
this arduous and tremendous conflict with
temptations
Yrithout and weakness within, many and
many a soul would